

Panelist Profile, Group-Housed Calf Systems

Lawnhurst Farms, Stanley, NY

The Jensen Family

1200 cows + calves from a 700 cow neighbor dairy, up to 200 calves on milk



Phillip with Don Jensen



- Summer ventilation – open side and end walls, cross mounted fans

- Winter ventilation – positive pressure tubes, curtains and ridge opening





- Plastic barrel grain feeders
- 22% pellet starter
- Free choice water



- Transfer/holding bulk tank is trailer mounted with complete cooling system attached
- Waste milk cooled to 50°F
- Diluted acid is mixed
- Acidified milk may remain on board for 3 days before transfer to calf barn

- Milk room bulk tank with cleaning system – sanitized 3X weekly
- Agitator set for 1 minute on every hour
- Calves fed acidified whole milk for 21-28 days then straight 22:20 milk replacer - both delivered by the robotic feeder





- Robotic feeder programmable for each calf
 - Individual or group medications can be delivered with milk or MR
 - Feeders cleaned/sanitized automatically 2X daily
 - Time and amount of liquid consumed recorded for each calf
 - Interfaces with computer program



- Calf barn office and medicine room
- Computer, printer and farm radio
- Spreadsheet for event and feed intake data entry

Summary of Practices - Lawnhurst Farms

➤ Feeding System: 4 DeLaval CF1000 robotic feeder
➤ Milk Sources: Acidified whole milk up to 21-28 days of age; 22:20 MR (not acidified) after ... until weaned
➤ Milk Reservoir Sanitation: 3X weekly
➤ Robotic Unit Sanitation: 2X daily, automatic
➤ Housing: individual pens in old greenhouse for 3-5 days then new (2009) cold barn
➤ Summer Ventilation: positive pressure tubes, fans, side curtains, open end doors, overshot ridge
➤ Winter Ventilation: positive pressure tubes, curtains
➤ Group Sizes: up to 25 (7-10 day range in ages)
➤ Digestive Disorder Incidence: <1%
➤ Respiratory Problem Incidence: 15% average since tube installation April 2011
➤ Baby Calf Mortality: <1%
➤ Calf Starter CP: 22%
➤ Target Calf Starter Consumption at Weaning: 4.5 – 5 lbs.
➤ Target Age at Weaning: step down started at 35 days completed at 41-45 days
➤ Average % of Birth Weight at Weaning: 200% at 49-56 days (age at removal from baby barn)